



The Occasional Bulletin

Texas Lodge of Research, A.F. & A.M.

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At 2011 Anson Jones Lecture

PGM Zahrt weaves Masonic/Mormon mosaic

Texas Lodge of Research was treated to a very informative Anson Jones Lecture at the Fort Worth quarterly meeting this past June.

Iowa Past Grand Master Dennis Zahrt presented a paper titled "Grand Lodge of Iowa and the 'Mormons'." The Iowa Grand Lodge was founded in 1844 but prior to that, several lodges were chartered under dispensations from the grand Lodges of Missouri and Illinois. The latter dispensation for Rising Star Lodge in Montrose, Iowa was at the time the largest lodge in the territory. It and Keokuk Lodge later were known as the "Mormon" lodges. These lodges, according to PGM Zahrt, were instrumental in the creation of the Grand Lodge of Iowa.

Montrose, Burlington and Keokuk, Iowa are located across the



Iowa Past Grand Master Dennis Zahrt

Next Stated Communication Odessa, Texas

Friday, Sept. 16, 2011
Hospitality Room at Grande
Hotel Fundome and Dutch treat
dinner at a nearby restaurant.
Shakespeare's *Pericles*.

Saturday, Sept 17, 2011
8 a.m light breakfast available
at H.A. McFarland Lodge.
9 a.m tiled joint meeting with
New Mexico Lodge of Research.
Noon luncheon followed by
presentation of papers.
See back cover for details.

river from Nauvoo, Illinois home of Prophet Joseph Smith and his followers. Bro. Zahrt's research revealed that the "Mormon" lodges were criticized for apparently initiating large classes of candidates. During a five month period it is said that Nauvoo Lodge initiated 286 candidates. Eventually, the Grand Lodge of Illinois revoked the dispensations for the three lodges in Nauvoo and those in Montrose and Keokuk, Iowa. Despite the action of the Grand Lodge of Illinois, the lodges continued to work and members vis-

ited lodges freely.

Representatives of Keokuk and Clinton Lodges were permitted to participate in discussions that led to the formation of the Grand Lodge of Iowa and assured the continuation of Masonic existence for the "Mormon" lodges in Iowa.

Joseph Smith Jr. was born in Vermont in 1805 but his family moved to Western New York, near Batavia, the hot-bed of anti-Masonic sentiment following the

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Texas Lodge of Research Tableau of Officers 2011-2012

Worshipful Master 512 398-9583	Merlen Howe 2795 Westwood Road Lockhart, TX 78644-4698 b2c2795@gmx.com
Senior Warden 830 669-2729	James McCrae 623 Walking Plow Rd. Fredericksburg, TX 78624-6411 drycreek1@hctc.net
Junior Warden 210 224-2000 (o)	Reese L. Harrison Jr., PGM 711 Navarro, Suite 600 San Antonio, TX 78205 rlh@obht.com
Treasurer 512 587-8547	Mark Dermit kevit64@yahoo.com
Secretary & Occasional Bulletin Editor 512 970-8746 (m)	James G. "Jim" Dougherty, PM P.O. Box 684684 Austin, TX 78768-4684 texaslodgofresearch@yahoo.com
Chaplain 940 658-3596 (h) 940 658-3390 (o)	W. David Counts, PGM P.O. Box 338 Knox City, TX 79529 dcounts@westex.net
Senior Deacon 903 746-5849 (m)	Jim Rumsey White Oak, TX jim.rumsey@suddenlink.net
Junior Deacon & Webmaster 806 787-7600 (h) 806 361-2613 (m)	Brad Billings 3205 Brompton Corinth, TX 76210 bradbst@yahoo.com
Senior Steward 972 424-3304 (h) 972 977-7576 (m)	Charles McKay 3805 Camino Dr. Plano, TX 75074 charlesmckay@msn.com
Junior Steward 281 293-9330	Roberto Sanchez 1678 Beaconsire Houston, TX 77077 rmsh13@yahoo.com
Marshal	Robert Risko Jr. robrisko@aol.com
Master of Ceremonies 972 839-6172	Clark Stephenson P.O. Box 2776 Cedar Hill, TX 75106 ccs003@sbcglobal.net
Tiler 512 346-4310	Oscar Orum 8607 Azalea Tr. Austin, TX 78759 oorum@austin.rr.com
Transactions Editor 512 756-2756	Raymond Bronk, PM 100 Quirt Dr. Burnet, TX 78611 raybronk@aol.com
Editor Emeritus	Dr. William P. Vaughn, PM, FMR
Editorial Committee	James McCrae, <i>ex officio</i> David B. Dibrell, PGM Raymond Bronk, PM Gordon W. Kelso, PM
Webmaster Emeritus	Pete Martinez, PM
Bulletin Copy Editor	Herbert C. Arbuckle III

On the web at:

www.texaslodgofresearch.org



By Merlen Howe

Message from the Master

What is the last thing you wanted?

Sometimes that statement denotes disappointment or disgust. When some less-than-desired event occurs, the phrase "That's the last thing I ever wanted," pops out. This view is not my meaning at this time.

When something so good happens that the person can't think of anything better or more desired, that event is the last, best, ultimate thing wanted. Life is now great with goals fulfilled.

If that feeling occurs when a man becomes a Master Mason, he is on the way. The lifetime ahead allows exploration of the ritual in all its forms. Understanding the significance of each word and phrase, the allegorical meanings contained within the imagery, the historical development of how they came to be, and the ways in which one's life becomes enriched are some of the lessons learned in exploring what a Master Mason can be.

Other events in one's life may be similar. Being awarded some certificate or medal as a memento of accomplishment for just doing the job validates the effort and purpose behind the work even though no recognition was ever sought.

Fulfilling the mission of TLR contributes to the grand sensation of knowing more of the history and philosophies of Freemasonry. As research is done and shared with other TLR members, ladies and



Merlen Howe

guests, all of us may gain kernels of truth we add to our bodies of Masonic knowledge. That feeling is so often repeated that I look forward to each quarterly meeting as an opportunity to gain insights to further improve myself in Masonry.

It is my hope that you have a similar experience each time we meet. The recent Anson Jones lecture by Iowa PGM Dennis Zahrt was a highlight of this trail of Masonic knowledge. I await further gains for myself and hope you find yourself on the road to becoming all you can be in freemasonry.

Our September meeting in Odessa will be special in two ways. One is that it will be a joint meeting with New Mexico Lodge of Research and each lodge will present a paper. Two is that the opportunity exists to see a Shakespeare play in the Globe Theatre of the Southwest.

See you there!

- Merlen Howe

Mormon/Masonic mosaic

Continued from Page 1.

“Morgan Affair” in 1826. Morgan, who published an expose of Freemasonry and was allegedly abducted and disappeared. Masons were accused of doing away with Morgan and anti-Masonic fervor went so far as the formation of a political Anti-Masonic Party.

Smith completed his translation of the golden plates and *The Book of Mormon* between 1827 and 1829.

Is the *Book of Mormon* anti-Masonic? asks PGM Zahrt. Many writers believe that it is, but Bro. Zahrt is not one of them.

Anti-Masonic feelings had been building for years prior to the “Morgan Affair” as so many influential members of the fraternity held positions in governments across the land. Masons were seen as privileged, and those not Masons, were understandably worried.

It is Bro. Zahrt’s belief that the *Book of Mormon* was influenced by the anti-Masonic movement of the time. Joseph Smith was not a Mason when he wrote the book.

Despite roadblocks, a lodge was finally set to work in Nauvoo in 1841, where Smith was made a Mason-at-sight in 1842. At the time, Nauvoo was the largest city in Illinois and the Mormons had, in very short time, more Masons in their midst than any other area in the state.

The Nauvoo Masonic Temple was dedicated in April of 1844 by Worshipful Master Hyrum Smith, the prophet’s brother. Both brothers were assassinated by a mob at the jail in Carthage, Illinois in June of the same year. In 1845, the State of Illinois cancelled the Nauvoo city

the exodus of the Mormons to Utah.

According to Bro. Zahrt, many claim that the inner temple ceremonies of the Mormons are a form of clandestine Masonry. Some church leaders admit that there are similarities but that Joseph Smith had received the secret keys at least a year before becoming a Mason. Smith, himself, said that modern Freemasonry was but a fragment of the rites practiced in Solomon’s Temple.

Masonry in Utah for many years forbade membership to Mormons, but that has certainly changed. The church, on the other hand, maintains that members need only the church, and even though the Mormon Church is not openly anti-Masonic, it does not encourage its members to join Freemasonry.

As to the charge that Mormon rites reflect Masonic ones, the church answers that Joseph Smith had all revealed to him in a vision, or visions, and that it really was unnecessary for him to become a Mason. But he did and so did others in his family and many others in the early church.

Past Grand Master Zahrt’s paper was well received by the lodge and we are proud to have had him as the 2011 Anson Jones Lecturer.



Masonic Values

As Masons we value and promote:

Philanthropy

We make a difference in our communities through charitable giving, community service and volunteerism.

Ethics

Our lives are based on honor and integrity, and we believe that honesty, compassion, trust and knowledge are important.

Personal growth

Our continuous pursuit of knowledge, ethics, spirituality and leadership brings more meaning to our lives.

Tolerance

The fraternity values religious, ethnic, cultural, social and educational differences. We respect the opinions of others and strive to improve and develop as human beings.

Freedom

Masons value liberty outlined in the U.S. Constitution and continually promote freedom of speech and expression to worship a Supreme Being in an individual way, and other important liberties. We believe it is our duty to vote in public elections and to exercise all of our liberties within proper bounds.

Family

We strive to be better spouses, parents and family members and are committed to protecting the well being of members and their families, especially when they are in need.

[From the California Grand Lodge - *Member’s Guide to Masonry in California*]



Clockwise from above: Worshipful Master Howe presents tokens of appreciation to Larry Whitfield, local coordinator and to Southside Lodge Worshipful Master Richard Barnett. Grand Master T. E. "Gene" Carnes receives an Iowa Masonic biker patch from PGM Zahrt. Approximately 50 TLR members and their ladies dined prior to the annual Anson Jones Lecture.

Fort Worth snapshots

Photos by Jim Dougherty





Clockwise from left: Michael Cote picked and sang for the supper crowd. Texas and Iowa-themed table decorations added a festive touch to the supper table. TLR members from across the state enjoyed the reception time at the quarterly meeting and Anson Jones Lecture. Judy Howe, right, was as always the gracious hostess for the evening. She is with Mrs. Zahrt.

MORE PHOTOS ON NEXT PAGE.



More photos from Fort Worth



Above, left: Worshipful Master Howe greets TLR's Durham Study Group "Marshall" Dr. Alan Bell and his wife, Hazel. The Bells were wrapping up their vacation in Lake Havasu City, AZ before returning to the UK. Right: Worshipful Master Howe examines a gavel given to him by PGM Zahrt. The beautifully turned gavel featured a fish hook design on the base of the handle.

Transactions on CD one step closer to reality

It has been a "rough and rugged road," but final approval has been given to publish the long awaited electronic version of the *Transactions* of Texas Lodge of Research from Vol. I through XL.

This project began a number of years ago with Past Master Pete Martinez scanning the literally thousands of pages contained in the *Transactions* volumes from 1959 through 2006. Most of the scanned volumes were in Bro. Pete's collection and some were in the TLR Secretary's collection. It is estimated that the full collection, if the rarer volumes could be found, would cost well over \$1,500 to replace.

Two main sticking points have delayed the publication. First, the electronic version is reformatted from the original book format to standard 8 1/2" x 11" and the pages renumbered. Because the original books were typeset and

printed at the former Home and School print shop, a number of typographical errors were found and corrected. There were also questions raised about the issue of copyright.

All of these issues have now been resolved and the finished version of the CD, in PDF format, has been approved for sale.

At the Fort Worth meeting, Worshipful Master Howe appoint-

ed a committee to study the last points: Searchability, CD packaging and how much to charge.

It is expected that the CD will be updated every five years or so and that stand-alone updates will be available to those who purchased the original.

The committee will make its recommendation at the Odessa meeting and distribution will begin afterward.

Form and Style Manual available on website

Texas Lodge of Research's *Form and Style Manual* is available to authors at the lodge website: www.texaslodgeofresearch.org for downloading.

The Editorial Committee and Senior Warden stress that authors who follow the very user-friendly manual will have far fewer corrections to make. Members of the committee often hold mini-forums for prospective authors at our quarterly meetings.

Don't forget about Tyler

The Jan. 21, 2012 meeting will be hosted by Tyler Lodge No. 1233, 1329 E. Fifth St., Tyler. Light breakfast will be available before tiled meeting opening at 9 a.m. The earlier hour will provide more time in the afternoon for travelers to return home. Accommodations will be at the Holiday Inn Express. The website is www.hietyler.com. Ask for the Texas Lodge of Research rate of \$99. Bro. Pete Martinez is the local coordinator.

Please note that these details are subject to change, so consult the TLR Web site at texaslodgeofresearch.org for updates.

Call for Papers

Senior Warden Jim McCrae is sending out an urgent plea for those who are working on research papers, and those "thinking about" starting one, to send it in as soon as possible. At present there is no backlog and papers are needed immediately for future meetings.

The process is simple: submit the document as both a print version and with a CD copy. These should be mailed to the Secretary at the address on the back of this magazine. Please include name, address, telephone number and e-mail address. The Secretary will acknowledge the paper's arrival by e-mail. He forwards the paper copy to the Senior Warden, who distributes it to the Editorial Committee.

First time authors should try to attend one of the informal forums held by the committee at quarterly meetings around the state.

Papers are critiqued by the committee and returned to the author for needed changes.

Important information about the Occasional Bulletin

By Jim Dougherty, PM, Secretary and Occasional Bulletin Editor



Sometimes, when you think you're down, something happens and you're really not completely out. That's what has happened with the *Occasional Bulletin* ... for the time being.

As outlined at the Lockhart meeting, we lost the services of our former printer, Texas School for the Deaf, and it looked as if the cost of publishing would roughly triple by going into the commercial printing market. Although the lodge voted to continue printing the quarterly magazine, Finance Committee chairman Truitt Bradly pointed out that there was not enough money in the budget to continue printing at the undoubtedly higher cost.

Enter my friend Bob Doherty. Bob and I go back many years to when I was editor of *The Texas Mason* magazine. His printing firm did a superb job of printing and mailing the magazine to the thousands of Masons in Texas. Bob and his partners sold their business to Ginny's Printing in Austin several years ago. While putting together the National Sojourners annual convention souvenir book, I told Bob of our predicament for both *The Occasional Bulletin* and the York Rite's *Through the Veils* publication.

Thanks to Bob's generosity, this and the post-Odessa issues will be printed at the same rate

we were paying the TSD.

However, we are not out of the woods quite yet. After the first of 2012 Ginny's will revisit their pricing policy and we will undoubtedly see an increase.

So we still face some tough choices: Do we abandon the print version of the *Occasional Bulletin* (which is easily accessible and printable from the TLR web site), or do we increase the budget to cover the increased printing costs?

A motion was put before the lodge in Fort Worth to discontinue the print version while dealing with how members would be notified as to the availability of the *Occasional Bulletin* on line and dates of upcoming meetings. After much discussion about the pros and cons of the motion, Bro. Secretary offered that it would be possible that if Bro. Senior Warden had his meeting sites chosen prior to the annual dues statement mailing in November, a flier could be included giving those dates, locations and as many details as are available. Getting up-to-date information will be in the on-line *Occasional Bulletin*.

Whatever we as a lodge decide in this matter, you can be assured that we will continue to enjoy the informative lodge newsletter in one form or another.

At the Lockhart meeting, the lodge voted to authorize newly appointed webmaster and Junior Deacon Brad Billings to contract with a professional web site designer to redesign our image on the worldwide web. While not yet complete, check out the site at texaslodgeofresearch.org. You'll be impressed.



ADDRESSES, PLEASE!

Brethren: As we transition to an eventual web-based *Occasional Bulletin*, it is very important that we update both our “snail mail” and e-mail addresses for all members. Dues cards will be going out later this year with the request that members make any corrections necessary to

keep their records up to date. Also, there is a space for an e-mail address. Please take the time to give us your e-mail address and know that it will not be shared with any other organization or sold for solicitations.

Your cooperation will be appreciated.

At H.A. McFarland Lodge No. 1388 in Odessa

TLR, New Mexico Research Lodge meet jointly

The Sept. 17, 2011 quarterly meeting of Texas Lodge of Research will be a historic session. Hosted by H.A. McFarland Lodge No. 1338, the meeting will mark the first time TLR and another research lodge have met jointly.

Thanks to dispensations from both Grand Lodges, the New Mexico Lodge of Research and TLR will meet jointly. It is expected that papers will be presented by members of each lodge. The officers of TLR will open using “Texas Work.”

Lodge will be opened at 9:00 a.m. with a light breakfast available at 8 a.m. The earlier hour will provide more time in the afternoon for travelers to return home.

On Friday afternoon there will be the usual Hospitality Room at the hotel, followed by Dutch treat supper.

Accommodations are available at the Grande Hotel Fundome, 6201 E. Business I-20. Contact is via the Web at www.mcmgrande.com or by phone at (866) 432-2311. The group name is Texas Lodge of Research. Room rates are \$87.99 (interior), \$82.99 (exterior) and \$119.99 for a suite. Complimentary hot breakfast is provided as are 5:30–7:00 p.m. complimentary cocktails. Cut-off date is Sept. 1.

H.A. McFarland Lodge No. 1338 is located at 700 Lettie Lee, in Odessa.

HOW ABOUT SOME SHAKESPEARE IN ODESSA?

On Friday members and guests can see a really funny comedy in Odessa’s Globe Theatre. Following dinner, depending on how many wish to attend, we may have a free bus to and from the theatre. Tickets are \$15 each and reservations must be made through the Secretary as soon as possible. The play is *Pericles* by William Shakespeare.

One of the Bard’s great romantic comedies, the play spans the life of Pericles, Prince of Tyre.

King Antiochus presents the young Pericles with a riddle as a prerequisite to winning the hand of his daughter. Solve the riddle and he wins the daughter; fail and Pericles is put to death. Just one problem: the solution to the riddle reveals a shameful secret of the King and so, either way that Pericles answers, his life is in danger. Stalling for time, Pericles leaves the kingdom and sets out on a lifelong journey around the Mediterranean full of fantastic experiences.

Sounds like fun!